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Ventnor Urban District Council

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956

THE VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor H.D.L. Lowe

Councillors S.G. Beesley, S.G. Conbeer,
Mrs. F.E. Ingram, W.M. MacKenzie,
H.T. Saunders, J.P. and K.M. Shorrocks.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

ж D. Warren Browne,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.
(resigned 31st March 1956)

ж P. Maxwell Browne,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Lond.)
(appointed 1st April 1956)

35% M.O.H. to Ryde Borough and Sandown-Shanklin and Ventnor Urban District Councils.

65% Assistant County and School Medical Officer, Medical Officer for Venereal Diseases, Regional Hospital Board and H.M. Prisons, Isle of Wight.

Public Health Inspector

ж E.R. Roughton
M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.
(resigned 18th May 1956)

ж G. Stanley Self
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H. & H.
(appointed 25th June 1956)

ж 50% contribution to salary by Exchequer Grants.

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ventnor Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for 1956 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District. Dr. D. Warren Browne was Medical Officer of Health up to 31st March and I was appointed on 1st April.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar General's estimate of the population fell slightly from 6,840 to 6,780 and the number of live legitimate births fell from 72 to 55 giving a live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of 8.7. The live birth rate for England and Wales being 15.7. There was a slight rise in the stillbirth rate from 13.2 to 16.7.

The total number of deaths rose from 90 to 102 giving a crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of 15.0 as against 13.2 in the previous year. The comparative death rate was 10.8 and the death rate for England and Wales 11.7. The number of deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age rose from nil to 3 and, therefore, the rate of all infants per 1,000 live births gave a rather exaggerated rise of 15.8 from 13.3. I am pleased to report that once more no deaths occurred from measles or whooping cough. The deaths from cancer of all ages remained much the same. Of the 102 deaths in Ventnor 49 were male, 53 female, the main cause being once more from cancer and diseases of the heart and blood vessels. Vascular lesions of the nervous system such as the common "stroke" accounted for 11 males and 7 females and from coronary diseases 6 males and 5 females. No deaths occurred from poliomyelitis but one case of one male died from pulmonary respiratory tuberculosis. No cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified in 1956 and this reflects highly on the standard of the maternity services. There were few cases of poliomyelitis, paralytic or non-paralytic, and there was an increase from 31 to 99 cases of measles. On the other hand whooping cough cases declined from 36 to 1. There was also a decline of respiratory tuberculosis from 7 to 1. The ages on date of infection show that the greatest number of cases of measles occurred between the ages of five and ten. No case of food poisoning was identified.

Water Supplies

Shortage of water occurred in varying degrees in parts of the town during the height of the summer season. This resulted in some inconvenience particularly to the proprietors of hotels and boarding houses. Steps are being taken by the Water Board to supplement the supply and it is not anticipated that the shortages will recur in future years.

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In spite of the presence of some innocious sediment in the water, the general standard of purity was considered to be satisfactory.

Old People

It was not necessary in 1956 to remove any old person under the National Assistance Act, to a place of safety although in one case it almost became necessary. It is to be wondered whether the public realise how much good work is done week in, week out, by the district nurses and the health visitors, not to mention the Home Help Service which does so much to take the domestic burdens off the shoulders of old people who are unable to get this necessary care and attention.

I wish to thank Mr. Stanley Self for his loyal co-operation at all times and for managing so ably what can be a busy district in the summer.

I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their loyal support in the last year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. MAXWELL BROWNE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

1. GENERAL

Total hours of sunshine during 1956:-

January	80.5 hrs.	July	197.8 hrs.
February	104.2 hrs.	August	220.8 hrs.
March	170.5 hrs.	September	125.3 hrs.
April	191.2 hrs.	October	141.8 hrs.
May	274.2 hrs.	November	105.7 hrs.
June	185.7 hrs.	December	37.5 hrs.

Total rainfall during 1956	28.90 inches.
Area in acres	3,522
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956)	1,906
Rateable value	£105,451
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£450

2. VITAL

Population (Registrar General's estimate) 6,780

Births	M.	F.	Total
Number of live legitimate births	29	26	55
Number of live illegitimate births	2	2	4
Live birth rate for 1,000 of estimated resident population			8.7
Comparative factor (births)			1.09
Comparative birth rate			9.5
Live birth rate for 1,000 England and Wales			15.7
Number of legitimate stillbirths	1	-	1
Number of illegitimate stillbirths	-	-	-
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			16.7

Deaths			
Total number of deaths	49	53	102
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			15.0
Comparative factor (deaths)			0.72
Comparative death rate			10.8
Death rate England and Wales			11.7
Deaths from puerperal causes			-
Number of deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age	3	-	3
Number of deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age	-	-	-
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			50.8
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			54.5
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
Deaths from measles (all ages)			-
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)			-
Deaths from cancer (all ages)			21

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (1)	- (1)
Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)
Syphilitic disease	- (-)	- (-)
Diphtheria	- (-)	- (-)
Whooping Cough	- (-)	- (-)
Meningoccocal infections	- (-)	- (-)
Acute poliomyelitis	- (-)	- (-)
Measles	- (-)	- (-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	- (-)	- (1)
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	2 (-)	3 (-)
" " - lung and bronchus	1 (3)	1 (-)
" " - breast	- (-)	1 (1)
" " - uterus	- (-)	- (2)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8 (9)	5 (4)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	- (1)	- (-)
Diabetes	- (1)	- (-)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7 (3)	11 (8)
Coronary disease, angina	6 (9)	5 (6)
Hypertension with heart disease	- (1)	2 (1)
Other heart disease	5 (8)	9 (13)
Other circulatory disease	3 (1)	6 (1)
Influenza	1 (-)	- (-)
Pneumonia	3 (-)	1 (-)
Bronchitis	3 (3)	3 (3)
Other diseases of respiratory system	- (-)	- (-)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	- (-)	- (-)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	- (-)	- (-)
Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (-)	- (1)
Hyperplasia of prostate	2 (1)	- (-)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- (-)	- (-)
Congenital malformations	1 (-)	1 (-)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3 (1)	4 (2)
Motor vehicle accidents	- (1)	- (1)
All other accidents	- (1)	1 (1)
Suicide	2 (-)	- (-)
Homicide and operations of war	- (-)	- (-)
	49 (44)	53 (46)

Note: Figures for 1955 are entered in brackets.

HEALTH SERVICES

Prevalence and Control of Infections and Other Diseases.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	1	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	7	-	-
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	-	-
Measles	99	2	-
Whooping cough	1	-	-
Meningoccocal infection	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis (post-infections)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	1	-
Tuberculosis (meninges and C.N.S.)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (other)	-	-	-
	110	4	-

Age at date of notification

Age	Scarlet fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal pyrexia	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	Ophthalmia neonatorum	Measles	Whooping cough	Meningoccocal infection	Erysipelas	Acute encephalitis (post-infections)	Tuberculosis (respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges and C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 " " 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " 35	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 " " 65	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-	7	-	-	1	99	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS - None notified.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES - From the weekly returns of headteachers:-

Chicken Pox	6
German measles	12
Mumps	5
Influenza	2
Impetigo	2
	27

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	Total	New Cases				Total	Deaths			
		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.			Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 " " 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " 25	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 " " 35	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " 45	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
45 " " 55	3	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
55 " " 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 " " 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	* 8	3	5	-	-	ø 2	1	1	-	-

ø One of these cases died from another disease.

* This number includes 5 transfers from the mainland, one case in which the death return gave the first information and one old case who returned to the Island.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1944.

Number of samples taken during 1956	26
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	Nil

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Salisbury Gardens,
Ventnor, I.W.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ventnor Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first annual report on the sanitary circumstances and the work carried out in the Ventnor Urban District during 1956.

I am grateful to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. P. Maxwell Browne, for the privilege of commenting separately on these matters within the framework of his annual report.

My predecessor, Mr. E.E. Roughton, resigned in May 1956, and until I took over the appointment on the 25th June 1956, the work on the district was carried out by Mr. N.L.G. Tubb, Senior Public Health Inspector to the Sandown-Shanklin Urban District Council, and Mr. E.A. Griffin, Assistant Surveyor, Ventnor Urban District Council. My sincere thanks are due to both these officers for the able way in which they bridged the gap and for their assistance and co-operation during my first year of service with this Council.

A large proportion of the work done during the year has been centered on the problems of water supply, drainage and food inspection and in the latter connection I must report that approximately two days per week are spent in inspecting meat at the Bacon Factory. Here the number of number of pigs slaughtered fell by some 11%, but owing to a reduction in the average size of each kill, the actual number of visits to the slaughterhouse increased by 22%. It is pleasing to note that once again the incidence of tuberculosis in animals slaughtered showed a decline, only 0.03% of the pigs inspected being totally condemned for this disease. The percentage of pigs affected to a lesser extent with tuberculosis was 1.77%.

I regret that owing to the pressure of other duties it was only possible to make 95 visits to food shops during the year. As will be seen from the table in the main body of the report, there are 119 food premises in the town and consequently some were not visited at all during 1956. These figures exclude the large number of hotels and guest houses which should also be given regular supervision. Conditions in the food premises visited were, on the whole, quite reasonable and most managements were co-operative in matters of food hygiene. However, in the season, large numbers of casual workers are employed and as some of these are completely without food hygiene training, much more frequent inspection of the premises is necessary if unhygenic practices are to be stamped out.

The tendency to land movement in the area is one of the principal causes of drainage troubles, particularly in the older properties. As few of the drains in these houses have adequate means of access for rodding, the opportunity is taken to construct new inspection chambers when other repairs are being effected.

Although housing does not constitute a major problem in this authority, a number of older properties in the area are still in need of repair and maintenance. During the year 109 informal notices were served under the Public Health and Housing Acts and fortunately most of these were complied with without the necessity for serving statutory notices. However, one or two owners still do not respond to informal action and for this reason it was necessary to serve 8 statutory notices to secure the necessary repairs.

The responsibility for public cleansing, sewerage and the maintenance of the children's paddling pool rests with the Engineer and Surveyor and I am indebted to him for the information supplied on these subjects.

Finally I should like to thank the Public Health Committee and the Council for their support during the year and also to record my appreciation of the assistance given by my colleagues in other departments.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. STANLEY SELF.

Public Health Inspector.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply

The water supply for Ventnor Urban District is derived from the following main sources:-

(a) A deep well situated in the Waterworks, Mitchell Avenue;

(b) Surface water collected in channels in the British Railways tunnel between Wroxall and Ventnor. This is known as the "tunnel supply" and feeds into the Waterworks in Mitchell Avenue;

(c) A spring at Wroxall, and

(d) A main spring and a subsidiary spring in Old Park Road, St. Lawrence.

The tunnel supply runs into a collecting chamber where it is dosed with chlorine and thence into a settling tank into which is also fed the water from the deep well. The two supplies mix and settle in this tank. The lowest part of the town is gravity fed from the settling tank (this is known as the low level supply) and the remainder of the water is pumped from the settling tank to a reservoir on Littleton Down above the Lowtherville Estate. This reservoir feeds the upper part of the town and is known as the high level supply.

Water from the spring at Wroxall is chlorinated and is used to supply Wroxall village itself but the village can also obtain water from the high level supply of Ventnor should this be necessary.

The two springs in St. Lawrence are used to feed the western end of the town and St. Lawrence itself, and some of the water is also used in the Niton area and other places outside the Urban District boundary. The water from these springs is chlorinated before use.

A table of the results of water samples taken is given below and from it, it will be seen that although the general standard of the raw water is somewhat variable, little complaint can be made against the bacteriological standard of the treated water. In all, 80 samples were taken at regular intervals from all the sources and from different points on the various supply routes, i.e. high level supply, low level supply, Wroxall supply and St. Lawrence supply. However, complaints are frequently received of heavy sediment in the water but the Public Analyst does not consider this to be sufficient to render the water unfit. Copies of the results of the chemical examination of the waters are also given.

Results of Examination of Water Samples

Grade	Raw	Treated
1	12	42
2	2	3
3	6	4
4	7	7
	27	53

Chemical Analysis

		Sample A.		Sample B.	
1.	Appearance	Clear, bright.		Clear, bright.	
2.	Taste and odour	Normal.		Normal.	
3.	Colour	Colourless.		Colourless.	
4.	pH value	7.4		7.3	
5.	Free chlorine	-		-	
6.	Total solid residue	400 parts	p. mill.	420 parts	p. mill.
7.	Suspended matter	-	"	-	"
8.	Chlorine as chloride	37	"	36	"
9.	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00165	"	0.00165	"
10.	Albuminoid "	0.00165	"	0.00198	"
11.	Nitrate "	1.48	"	1.56	"
12.	Nitrite "	absent		absent	
13.	Total Alkalinity	240	"	250	"
14.	Hardness (Total)	298	"	306	"
15.	" (Temporary)	240	"	250	"
16.	" (Permanent)	58	"	46	"
17.	Electrical Conductivity	-		-	
18.	Metals - Poisonous	absent		absent	
	" - Iron	absent		absent	
19.	Oxygen absorption from Permanganate solution in 4 hours at 27 C	0.1	"	0.1	"

"This is a moderately hard water of high organic purity and which is suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

The main problem with the water supply in Ventnor is the dual question of quantity and pressure. Certain parts of the town, particularly the upper portions of the low level supply and the upper portions of the high level supply, suffer periodically from shortage of water pressure particularly during the holiday months when the demand from hotels and catering establishments is greatly increased. These facts are well known to the undertakers, the Isle of Wight Water Board, and they have plans in hand for the provision of more water when the necessary engineering works have been carried out. The total number of inhabitated houses supplied with water is 1,902.

Drainage

Owing to the peculiar geological formation of the Ventnor district, land movement is quite common and as a result a large number of drainage problems arise in the town. The Public Health Inspector is responsible for the examination and testing of both old and new drainage systems and a considerable amount of time is spent in this work. During the year under review, 251 visits concerning drainage were made, 80 drains were tested and 40 out of the 46 defects rectified.

Sewerage

Only part of the area is served by sewers, Bonchurch and St. Lawrence being dependent upon cesspits and septic tanks for sewage disposal. The Surveyor arranges for the regular emptying of these pits and no charge is made to owners for the first four emptyings in any financial year.

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The sewage from Ventnor itself is discharged directly into the sea through four main outfalls. In Wroxall there is a sewage works, the effluent from which discharges into a stream. Improvements to these works are now under way. The only major works undertaken in connection with sewage was the re-laying of the Castle Road sewer which had become very defective due to land movement. This work was still in progress at the end of the year. Routine maintenance of the sewers was also carried out and repairs undertaken at the owners' expense to two public sewers to which Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, applied.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal in Ventnor is by means of controlled tipping in an old lime kiln in Steephill Down Road and little trouble, apart from fly nuisance, is experienced on this tip. The fly nuisance is now being controlled by careful covering of the works and by regular treatment with insecticide. Frequent visits are paid by the rodent operatives of the Isle of Wight (Rodent Destruction) Joint Committee to ensure freedom from rats.

Household refuse is collected from private houses once per week and from hotels and guest houses twice or more weekly as the situation demands. Swill is not collected by the local authority but a private contractor calls regularly at the larger establishments and little trouble is experienced on this side.

Swimming Pools.

There are no public swimming baths in the district but on the Eastern Esplanade the Council maintain a children's paddling pool. This is supplied with water from the Cascade which, in turn, is fed by an underground stream. As the purity of this water varies considerably, the pool is chlorinated regularly to maintain a satisfactory standard.

Caravans and Camping.

There is only one regular caravan and camping site in Ventnor and, in general, the arrangements there are satisfactory. Occasionally, applications for the use of other sites for this purpose are received but to date none of these applications have satisfied the requirements of Town and Country Planning Acts and consequently they have been rejected.

Food Inspection

A table is given below of the number and type of food premises in the town. A total of 95 visits were paid during the year but this, of course, excludes the visits to the Bacon Factory for the purpose of meat inspection:-

Food Premises in the Ventnor Urban District

General Dealers	25
Cafes, Snack Bars, Kiosks, etc.	35
Butchers	6
Bacon Factory	1
Greengrocers	9
Bakers	5
Wet Fish	4
Fried Fish	2
Sweets and Confectionery	9
Licensed Premises (other than private hotel licences)	23
	119

Of these food premises, 11 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation or manufacture of preserved food. In all 19 visits were paid to these shops to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act, and of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Meat Inspection

Much of the work in connection with food hygiene consists of meat inspection at the Bacon Factory and during the year 146 visits were made to inspect 6,881 pigs. Of these only 2 whole carcases weighing 259 lbs. were condemned for generalised tuberculosis, but a further 19, weighing 2,300 lbs. were wholly condemned for other reasons, mainly pyaemia, oedema and emaciation. Part carcases and organs condemned for tuberculosis amounted to 120 weighing 1,164 lbs., most of these being heads in which sub-maxillary nodes were affected. Part carcases and organs condemned for other reasons amounted to 560 with a total weight of 1,550 lbs.

As there is a by-products plant at the Bacon Factory, all meat condemned there is stained and disposed of under strict supervision.

Other Foods

Other unsound food condemned or disposed of included -

Tinned milk	1	tin
Fresh meat	640	lbs.
Sausage meat	224	"
Cooked Ham (fresh)	214	"
Fish (fresh)	28	"
Tinned cooked ham	53	"
Tinned meat	13	"
Orange juice	42	tins
Tinned vegetables	46	lbs.
Jam	37	"
Tinned fish	6	"
Soups	15	"
Dried fruit	2	"
Tinned fruit	224	"
Chutney	20	"
Biscuits	20	"
Angelica	4½	"

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The total weight of unsound food condemned in the district during 1956 was, therefore, just over three tons, a considerable reduction on the four and three-quarter tons condemned in 1955. This condemned food was collected, stained and destroyed on the refuse tip under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Ice Cream

Although many shops and kiosks sell loose ice cream, none is made in the district. A manufacturer in the Sandown-Shanklin Urban District does supply a number of the shops but a large proportion of the ice cream consumed in Ventnor is produced by large firms on the mainland.

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream is 45 and during the year 26 visits were paid to them.

No difficulties were experienced in the administration of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1952.

Milk and Dairies

The majority of the milk consumed in the district during 1956 was either pasteurised or tuberculin tested and, in fact, the only producer who used to sell raw, undesignated milk has now changed over to tuberculin tested. Two premises are registered as dairies and five persons as distributors.

Food Hygiene Regulations

In general, shopkeepers in the district have co-operated quite well in the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, although in some cases all the works were not completed until the end of the year.

Housing

No Council houses were erected in the district during the year but seven houses were built by private enterprise. At the moment the Council own 199 houses and flats and plans are in hand for increasing this number during the current year. Although some additional accommodation is necessary, the general housing situation does not constitute a serious problem as at the end of 1956 the number of priority cases on the housing list was 14 out of a grand total of 81 applicants.

Shops Act

Routine inspections are made under the health and welfare provisions of the Shops Act and in most cases any minor defects found are quickly remedied. Inspections in respect of closing hours and Sunday trading also take place in accordance with the powers delegated to the Council by the Isle of Wight County Council.

Vermin

Once again there was a fall in the number of verminous premises treated, the total for the whole year being only eleven. It is pleasing to record that the bug-infested house is now a rarity and that with modern insecticides, most verminous premises can be completely cleared in one operation. The general public in Ventnor have, on the whole, co-operated very well in this matter by notifying the Health Inspector at the first sign of an infestation. In this way the problem can be dealt with quickly and effectively, with the minimum trouble to all concerned.

Rodent Destruction

This work is carried out by the County Rodent Officer and his staff working under the control of the Isle of Wight (Rodent Destruction) Joint Committee. A good liaison exists between the County Rodent Officer and the local Public Health Inspector and complaints of infestations receive prompt attention.

Summary of Inspections and Visits made in 1956

Number of informal notices and requests	119

Public Health Acts

Visits and inspections of houses	203
Number of houses in which dis-repairs were found	49
Number of houses in which dis-repairs were rectified	40
Visits and inspections of verminous premises	23
Number of verminous premises treated	11
Visits and inspections concerning drainage	251
Defective drains found	46
Defective drains rectified	40
Drains tested	80
Visits and inspections concerning refuse collection and disposal	28
New dustbins provided as a result of informal action	14
Visits and inspections of camping sites	3
Visits concerning cases of infectious disease	29
Visits and inspections re water supplies	79
Samples taken for bacteriological examination	80
Samples taken for chemical analysis	2

Housing Acts

Visits and inspections	23
Visits concerning improvement grants	25
Improvement grants authorised by Council	7
Visits concerning re-housing	21
Closing orders made	1
Undertakings to repair accepted in lieu of closing or demolition orders	3

Factories Act

Visits	38
Defects found	4
Defects remedied	4

Food and Drugs Act

Visits and inspections to food premises (Other than Bacon Factory or licensed premises)	84
Unsatisfactory conditions found	10
Unsatisfactory conditions rectified	7
Visits and inspections of licensed premises	11
Visits to Bacon Factory	146
Number of pigs slaughtered and inspected	6,881
Visits and inspections of dairies	1
Milk samples taken	4

Pests Act

Visits re infestations of rats and mice	5

Shops Act

Visits	16
Defects found	4
Defects remedied	3

Notices

Act	Informal		Formal	
	Served	Complied	Served	Complied
Public Health	109	94	4	3
Housing	-	-	4	-
Factories	4	4	-	-
Food and Drugs	10	7	-	-
Shops	4	3	-	-
	127	108	8	3

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Part I of the Act

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec -tions	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	10	-	-
Factories not included in above, in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	34	28	1	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	50	38	1	-

Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) - (a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defec defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
	4	4	-	-	-

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY